

Remarks

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated May 6, 2005. Claims 1, 2 and 10 have been amended, Claims 11-27 have been canceled, and new Claims 28-31 have been added. Therefore, Claims 1-10 and 28-31 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested, particularly in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In accordance with the Office Action, the specification drew objections for informalities of a generally typographical and/or grammatical nature. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestions to better comport with the drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 2 and 10 have been amended to overcome said rejections.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,589 to Park. Claim 1 has been amended.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a "reference voltage generating circuit, comprising: a distributing unit ... having an enabling switch with a control

terminal connected to the external power supply voltage; a clamping control unit ... and a control unit connected to the distributing unit”.

The ‘589 patent reference to Park is generally directed towards a reference voltage generator circuit for an integrated circuit device, but fails to teach or suggest “a distributing unit ... having an enabling switch with a control terminal connected to the external power supply voltage” as recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by Park.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 2-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,548,994 to Jang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,788,132 to Lim et al. The Park, Jang and Lim et al. patents are each assigned to the same assignee as the present application. The present invention was made at least as early as December 2, 2002 as evidenced by the foreign priority date. Therefore, the Lim et al. reference is removed for the purposes of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by operation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Accordingly, Claims 2-9 are not rendered obvious by Jang in view of Lim et al., nor by any of the other references of record in this case.

In accordance with the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Accordingly, amended Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form while overcoming the § 112, second paragraph

rejection.

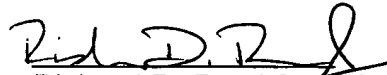
In Applicant's prior response to the restriction requirement, it was proposed that a generic claim might be allowable. Accordingly, such a generic claim has been added as new independent Claim 28. If any generic claim is found to be allowable, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement and alert Applicant to reinstate Claims 11-27.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 10 and 28 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Since the dependent Claims 2-9 and 29-31 each depend from the above claims and necessarily include each of the elements and limitations thereof, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, and for reciting additional patentable subject matter. Therefore, Claims 1-10 and 28-31 are each in condition for allowance.

All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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